

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147104

TOSEC 425

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ISRAELI RAIDS

1. FOLLOWING TICKER ITEM REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:
QUOTE

RNR 215 (216 & 217)

SNAP" MIDEAST--RAIDS

TEL AVIV, JULY 8, REUTER -- ISRAELI NAVAL BOATS TONIGHT
RAIDED THREE LEBANESE PORTS, SINKING ABOUT 10 VESSELS IN
EACH OF THEM, THE ISRAELI MILITARY SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED.
THE PORTS THAT WERE HIT WERE TYRE, SIDON AND RAS A-
SHAKH.

EARLIER, LOCAL SOURCES AT THE LEBANESE PORTS HAD RE-
PORTED THAT ISRAELI TROOPS IN FOUR GUNBOATS BLEW UP ABOUT
15 FISHING BOATS OFF SARAFAND NEAR THE SOUTHERN PORT OF
SIDON.

THEY SAID THE ISRAELIS LEFT BEHIND LEAFLETS WARNING
LOCAL INHABITANTS AGAINST COOPERATING WITH "TERRORISTS."

TWO OTHER ISRAELI BOATS SAILED TO THE SOUTHERN PORT OF
TYRE AND BLEW UP AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF FISHING BOATS,
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THE SOURCES SAID.

MACHINE-GUN FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS WERE STILL BEING HEARD TONIGHT FROM THE SHORE, THE SOURCES ADDED. THEY SAID THE OPERATION TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 10:30 P.M. AND 11 P.M. (LOCAL TIME) THE ISRAELI UNITS SUFFERED NO DAMAGE AND RETURNED SAFELY TO THEIR BASE, THE ISRAELIS SAID. THE ISRAELI SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE RAIDS FOLLOWED NUMEROUS INDICATIONS THAT ARAB GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS WERE PREPARING TO USE THE PORTS TO LAUNCH NEW ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL AS THEY DID AGAINST NAHARIYA ON JUNE 25. THE ISRAELIS CHARGED THAT THE THREE GUERRILLAS WHO KILLED FOUR ISRAELIS, INCLUDING A MOTHER AND HER TWO CHILDREN, IN THE ISRAELI NORTHERN COASTAL TOWN HAD COME BY SEA FROM LEBANON. THE THREE GUERRILLAS ALSO DIED IN THE ATTACK.

UNQUOTE

2. INR COMMENT: THE RAID IS EVIDENTLY A DELAYED REPRISAL FOR THE FEDAYEEN ATTACK ON NAHARIYA, DELAYED SO AS NOT TO ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PRESIDENT'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP. SINCE THE ISRAELIS BELIEVE THE ASSAULT ON NAGARIYA CAME FROM THE SEA, EMBASSY TEL AVIV HAD WARNED THAT THE PLANNED REPRISAL WOULD BE "IN KIND". THE DESTRUCTION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF CIVILIAN FISHING BOATS MAKES IT MORE LIKELY THAT LEBANON WILL BRING THIS RAID BEFORE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. SISCO

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